Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 14 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In consideration of that state of the art relating to the breaking-out procedure, the inventor set himself the aim of substantially improving the removal of waste portions from sheets of material and simplifying the tools required for that purpose. In particular the invention seeks to provide that those tools can be used for the treatment of very small waste pieces.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Further advantages, features and details of the invention will be apparent from the description hereinafter of preferred embodiments and with reference to the drawings in which:--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Cardboard sheets 10 which are used in the folding box industry have stamped blanks for folding boxes or the like, with waste portions 12 being produced in or on the blanks. Downstream of a stamping station which is not shown in the drawing for reasons of enhanced clarity thereof, the stamped cardboard sheet 10 passes on to a breaking-out board or a female

die 14 of a thickness b for example of 12 mm, on which the sheet 10 is freed of its waste portions 12; the waste portions 12 are disposed over openings 16 which are of a configuration designed in dependence on the contour of the waste portions 12 and at which, in the cross-sectional view in Figures 4 through 7, an upper frame portion 17 with a vertical wall is followed by a downwardly opening conical portion 18.--

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In the support tool 20_a shown in Figures 11 and 12, the support surface 25 for the waste portion 12 is provided by a support plate 46 which hangs separately between side walls 23; the support plate 46 rests with lateral trunnions which are not visible - pivot axis A - in finite mounting grooves 48 in the side walls 23 and can be moved from the horizontal position into the inclined position indicated at 46_n. In that position the support plate 46 is disposed in approximately parallel relationship with the inclined front ribs 50 of the side walls 23, the front ribs 50 also forming catch fingers.--

B5

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 27 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Figures 16 and 17 show that the fork member 41 is firmly driven into a male die 56 of plywood of a thickness b_1 of for example 12 mm, as far as abutments 54 which are formed from the

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fork member 41 and which are directed transversely with respect to the prong axis B. The firm fit is produced by means of abutment plates 59 (Figures 21 through 23) which are near the upper edge and which are parallel to the prong axis B, or by means of clamping noses 60 or gripping ridges which project at both sides from the surfaces 58 of the fork member 41.--

Please amend claims 39, 47, 52-56, 61 and 63 as follows:

39. (Amended) Apparatus for removing broken-out pieces, from a sheet of material which contains blanks and which rests on a female die in such a way that a broken-out portion extends over an opening in a breaking-out surface and is urged away through the opening under the pressure of at least one breaking-out tool, wherein associated with the breaking-out tool is a support means which is movable in a direction of movement of the breaking-out tool and which is rigidly connected in positively locking relationship to the breaking-out surface or female die in an edge region of the opening and which projects into the opening with a support surface which can be inclined with respect to a connection pairing and which in a rest position engages in substantially parallel relationship under the broken-out piece disposed in the sheet of material and which is adapted to be variable in its position upon the movement of the broken-out piece by the breaking-out tool and in particular is adapted to be transferred into an angle of inclination relative to the sheet of material in the downward movement of the broken-out piece,

wherein the connection pairing for the support means comprises at least one undercut receiving groove on the one hand and a portion which can be fitted thereinto and which extends in the breaking-out direction (x) on the other hand, characterized in that a plurality of cross-sections of the receiving groove and a portion forming a first coupling rib or bar are of a dovetail-shaped configuration, wherein the support means appears in longitudinal section as an angle portion with at least one coupling rib which is formed out of one of a plurality of limbs for a receiving groove of the female die formed in a limb for a second coupling rib of the female die on the one hand and with a flexible limb forming the support surface on the other hand.

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47. (Amended) Apparatus as set forth in claim 39, characterized in that the flexible limb forming the support surface has an edge opening which is delimited on both sides by cantilever portions, and at least one inner opening at a spacing in relation to the edge opening.

B10

52. (Amended) Apparatus as set forth in claim 39, characterized in that said at least one breaking-out tool extends between a plurality of surfaces of the support means, said plurality of surfaces being movable in the breaking-out direction (x).

B11

53. (Amended) Apparatus as set forth in claim 39, characterized in that the portion including the support surface is provided at a free edge with at least one edge opening, wherein said at least one edge opening is disposed in opposite relationship to a free end of the breaking-out tool.

54. (Amended) Apparatus as set forth in claim 39, characterized in that disposed opposite the support surface as a breaking-out tool is a pressure pin with a rounded free end which is in the form of a rough surface.

B11

55. (Amended) Apparatus as set forth in claim 39, characterized in that associated with the support surface as a breaking-out tool is a fork member with one or more finger-like fork prongs of preferably flat cross-section, wherein preferably a free end of a pressure pin is in the form of a rough surface.

56. (Amended) Apparatus as set forth in claim 55, characterized in that the free end of the fork prongs is formed by a part-circular curve (43_a in Figures 18, 23) formed therein or a tip (Figures 30, 31) formed out thereon.

61. (Amended) Apparatus as set forth in claim 55, characterized in that an axial height (h) of the rough surface corresponds at most to a diameter (d) of the pressure pin or a width of the fork prong.

B12

63. (Amended) Apparatus as set forth in claim 55, characterized in that the fork member projects from a plate-shaped male die, wherein the portion of the fork member, which is connected to the male die, has clamping noses.

B12

Please cancel claim 62 without prejudice or disclaimer.